

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 876

93RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR LOUDON.

Read 1st time January 17, 2006, and ordered printed.

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

4484S.01I

AN ACT

To amend chapter 173, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to tuition grants for dependents and spouses of military members.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 173, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new
2 section, to be known as section 173.234, to read as follows:

173.234. 1. As used in this section, unless the context clearly
2 requires otherwise, the following terms shall mean:

3 (1) "Board", the coordinating board for higher education;

4 (2) "Eligible student", the natural, adopted, or stepchild of a
5 qualifying military member, who is less than twenty-five years of age
6 and who was a dependent of a qualifying military member at the time
7 of death or injury, or the spouse of a qualifying member, who is less
8 than forty-five years of age;

9 (3) "Grant", the military member survivor grant as established by
10 this section;

11 (4) "Qualifying institution", any approved Missouri public or
12 private institution of postsecondary education as defined in section
13 173.205;

14 (5) "Qualifying military member", any member of the military of
15 the United States, whether active duty, reserve, or national guard, who
16 was killed in combat action after September 11, 2001, or who became
17 eighty percent disabled as a result of the injuries sustained in combat
18 action after September 11, 2001, and who was, at the time of death or
19 injury, a citizen of the state of Missouri;

20 (6) "Tuition", any tuition or incidental fee, or both, charged by a
21 qualifying institution for attendance at the institution by an eligible

22 student. The tuition grant shall not exceed the amount of tuition
23 charged a Missouri resident at the University of Missouri - Columbia
24 for attendance.

25 2. Within the limits of the amounts appropriated therefor, the
26 board shall provide, as prescribed in this section, a grant to eligible
27 students who attend qualifying institutions of postsecondary education.

28 3. An eligible student may receive a grant under this section only
29 so long as the eligible student is enrolled in a program leading to a
30 certificate, or an associate or baccalaureate degree in a qualifying
31 institution. In no event shall the eligible student receive a grant
32 beyond the completion of the first baccalaureate degree. No eligible
33 student shall receive more than one hundred percent of tuition when
34 combined with similar funds made available to such eligible student.

35 4. The coordinating board for higher education shall:

36 (1) Promulgate all necessary rules for the implementation of this
37 section;

38 (2) Determine minimum standards of performance for a student
39 to remain eligible to receive a grant under this program;

40 (3) Make available on behalf of the eligible student an amount
41 toward the eligible student's tuition which is equal to the grant to
42 which the eligible student is entitled under the provisions of this
43 section;

44 (4) Provide the forms and determine the procedures necessary
45 for an eligible student to apply for and receive a grant under this
46 program.

47 5. An eligible student who is enrolled or has been accepted for
48 enrollment at a qualifying institution shall receive a tuition grant in an
49 amount not to exceed the actual tuition charged at the qualifying
50 institution where the eligible student is enrolled or accepted for
51 enrollment. In addition, such student shall receive an allowance of two
52 thousand dollars per semester for room and board, and an allowance
53 for the actual cost of books, up to five hundred dollars per semester.

54 6. An eligible student who is a recipient of a grant may transfer
55 from one qualifying institution to another without losing his or her
56 entitlement under this section. The board shall make necessary
57 adjustments in the amount of the grant. If a grant recipient at anytime
58 withdraws from a qualifying institution so that under the rules of such

59 institution the eligible student is entitled to a refund of any tuition,
60 fees, or other charges, the qualifying institution shall pay the portion
61 of the refund to which the student is entitled attributable to the grant
62 for that semester or similar grading period to the board.

63 7. If an eligible student is granted financial assistance under any
64 other student aid program, public or private, the full amount of such
65 aid shall be reported to the board by the qualifying institution and the
66 eligible student.

67 8. Nothing in this section shall be construed as a promise or
68 guarantee that a person will be admitted to a qualifying institution or
69 to a particular qualifying institution, will be allowed to continue to
70 attend a qualifying institution after having been admitted, or will be
71 graduated from a qualifying institution.

72 9. Pursuant to section 23.253, RSMo, of the Missouri Sunset Act:

73 (1) The provisions of the new program authorized under this
74 section shall automatically sunset six years after the effective date of
75 this section, unless reauthorized by an act of the general assembly; and

76 (2) If such program is reauthorized, the program authorized
77 under this section shall automatically sunset twelve years after the
78 effective date of the reauthorization of this section; and

79 (3) This section shall terminate on September first of the
80 calendar year immediately following the calendar year in which the
81 program authorized under this section is sunset.

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